

REMARKS**Claim Status**

Claims 12-16, 18, 21-24, 26, 27, 30-34, 36, 37, 40-43, 45, 47-49, 51, 52, 56-100, 102-107, and 109-114 have been previously cancelled.

Claims 1-11, 17, 19, 20, 25, 28, 29, 35, 38, 39, 44, 46, 50, 53-55, 101 and 108 are subject to the instant restriction requirement.

By the present amendment Applicants cancelled Claims 1-3, 8, 17, 25, 35 and 44.

Claim Amendment

Claims 1-3, 8, 17, 25, 35 and 44 have been cancelled.

Claim 4 has been amended to be recast in independent form and to correct typographical errors. Additionally, Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the allowed value for the variable n_2 is 1.

Claims 5 and 50 has been amended to correct their dependencies.

Claims 8, 17, 25, 35 and 44 have been cancelled as falling outside the scope of Claim 4.

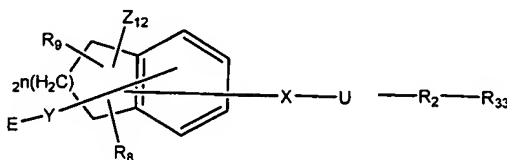
Claim 46 has been amended to delete the compounds outside the scope of Claim 4 as amended.

Claim 101 has been amended to correct typographical errors.

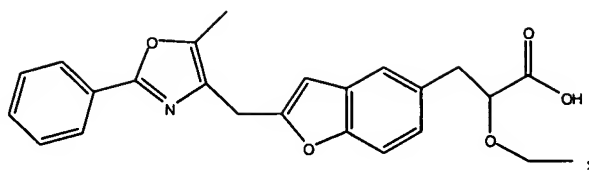
No new matter has been introduced.

Reply to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner restricted the present invention into *twenty seven* groups. The Examiner stated that the special technical feature under Rule PCT 13.2 is shown by the following structural formula:

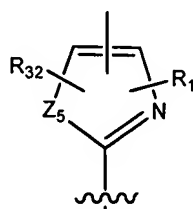


The Examiner stated that this special technical feature is not novel in view of the compounds of structural formula



disclosed in Exp. Opin. Ther. Patents 2000, 10(5), 623-634. Accordingly, the Examiner concluded that the present invention lacks unity under PCT Rule 13.2.

Responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group 14, *i.e.* the invention of Claim 4, as amended, wherein Z₄ is S, and T₁ is presented by the following formula:



Claims readable on the elected group are Claims 4, 6, 7, 9 – 11, 20, 46, 50, 53-55, 101, and 108.

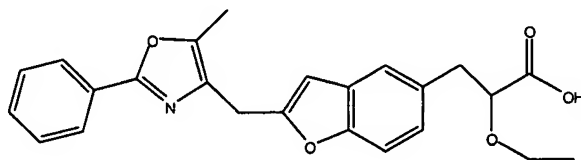
This is a provisional election, pending the outcome of the instant traversal. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

Traversal of the Restriction Requirement

PCT Rule 13.2 defines the “special technical feature” as a technical feature that defines a contribution which the invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

By the present Amendment, Applicants cancelled Claims 1-3 and recast Claim 4 in independent form. Applicants submit that the special technical feature now defines the contribution over the prior art in view of the instant amendment.

Indeed, the compound of formula



falls outside of the scope of Claim 4 as amended because the acid moiety is connected to the six-member portion of the benzofuran ring. In contrast, Claim 4 of the subject application requires the acid moiety to be connected to the 5 member portion of the bicyclic ring system.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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